



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS

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Echo Resort  
Ms. Joy Ray  
P.O. Box 746  
Coalville, Utah 84017

Dear Ms. Ray

A couple of weeks ago you called me about the problem you have with the dead trees along the shore of Echo Reservoir. I talked with the river commissioner today and he explained the situation to me.

There are several factors that contributed to the situation. Because of the cool and wet irrigation season during 1993, there was an unusually high amount of storage left in Echo Reservoir at the end of the season. One of the regular operating practices of the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District is to release storage water from Wanship Reservoir during the winter to generate electrical power and then recapture that water in Echo Reservoir. The conservancy district did this during the past winter until it became apparent that the snow pack for the year would not be very good; at that time the releases from Wanship were stopped.

These releases added to the high carry over storage in Echo which resulted in a fairly high water level in late winter. As you described to me, the resulting ice level was also unusually high and the ice did a lot of damage to the trees.

This is an unfortunate situation. However, from my investigation, it appears that all that was done was allowed by the water rights which regulate the storage of water in the two reservoirs. I cannot say who might be responsible for cleaning up the trees. It appears that the water level in the reservoir did not exceed the regular storage boundaries of the reservoir. This area is owned or controlled by the Bureau of Reclamation; perhaps you should contact them to see if they are interested in having the area cleaned up.

I have not been of much help to you, but I hope that you will be able to solve your problem.

Sincerely,

Lee H. Sim, P.E.  
Assistant State Engineer  
for Distribution

LHS:bd

